

FISHERIES UPDATE FOR THE WEEK OF August 31 – September 6, 2014.

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Office of Subsistence Management, USFWS.

The purpose of the weekly fisheries update is to provide the reader with an overall summary of the status of subsistence related fisheries throughout the state of Alaska. The target audience is the Federal Subsistence Board and its Staff Committee. The report was compiled with the assistance of the Federal in-season managers and OSM staff that provided weekly updated information by the close of business on Friday of the reporting week. My goal is to have the report posted on the Office of Subsistence website by the close of business the following Monday. Web links have been included to provide additional information. You may obtain additional information on a fishery of particular interest by contacting the in-season manager, provided contacts, follow the provided web links, or contact me.

The Yukon River weekly summary will be the only report distributed for the remainder of the 2014 season. The remaining summary authors have signed off for the season.

Yukon River – Gerald Maschmann, Fish Biologist USFWS Fairbanks Office.

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Fred Bue Fredrick_Bue@fws.gov
Emmonak Summer Office (907) 949-1798

The Emmonak Field Office is closed for the season.

Fall Season Outlook

The fall chum run in the lower Yukon is nearly over, and at this time the in-season assessment is projecting a fall chum run size of 825,000 based upon the reconstructed Pilot Station sonar estimate. The drainage wide escapement goal for fall chum is between 300,000 and 600,000 fall chum and was achieved this season. This season's fall chum run should meet escapement goals, provide for a normal subsistence harvest, and provide for commercial fishing opportunities. Although nearing the end in the lower Yukon, fall chum take 30 days to travel to the Canadian border so managers will be monitoring the fall chum run into October.

Fall Season Assessment

Projects in the lower Yukon are nearly finished for the 2014 season. Through September 4 the Lower Yukon Test Fishery (LYTF) is tracking well above average while the Mt. Village Test Fishery (MVTF) is tracking below average. The Pilot Station sonar is tracking slightly above average and has passed 648,994 fall chum. The LYTF, MVTF, and Pilot Station have detected six pulses of fall chum entering the lower Yukon with the fifth pulse passing over 250,000 fall chum salmon. The final day of sonar operations is September 7.

The Rapids test fish wheel project in the upper Yukon is just approaching the $\frac{3}{4}$ point and is tracking below average. The fifth pulse is just beginning to arrive at the Rapids and

test wheel CPUE is expected to rise over the next few days. The Chandalar River sonar estimated passage of 80,000 fall chum through September 4 is well above average. The mid-point for the Chandalar River sonar project is September 10. This project has already surpassed the minimum BEG of 74,000 fall chum and is on track to surpass the upper end of the BEG. The Tanana River test fish wheel at Manley began on August 9 and is below average. The mid-point of the project is on September 9. The Eagle sonar switched to fall chum assessment on August 13 and is tracking well above average; however, it's still very early for this project.

Subsistence fishermen in upriver districts have reported good harvests of “red fleshed” chum early in the season, and increasing numbers of “water marked” chum during the second half of the season. “Red fleshed” chum are desired for human consumption, while the “water marked” chum are used primarily for dog food and are not desired for human consumption due to poor quality.

Fall Season Management Actions

In Districts 1 and 2 the combined commercial harvest through September 4 is 113,000 fall chum salmon and 100,000 coho salmon. Fall chum directed commercial fishing closed by regulation on September 1 in the lower Yukon. Additional commercial fishing opportunities in District 1 after September 1 have been directed at the above average coho salmon run, which closes by regulation on September 10. Commercial fishermen in Subdistrict 5-B and 5-C harvested 1,264 fall chum. Commercial fishermen in District 6, near the village of Nenana, harvested 792 fall chum and 317 coho.

Subsistence fishing was returned to the normal regulatory schedules at the end of the summer season. To allow additional opportunity on the projected surplus of fall chum and to make up for missed opportunity on Chinook salmon, subsistence salmon fishing in District 4 and Subdistrict 5-A, 5-B, and 5-C was relaxed to 24 hours per day, seven days per week. Additionally, upper Subdistrict 4-A was opened to drift gill net fishing six days early.

Coho Salmon

Coho salmon overlap the second half of the fall chum run, and is coming in well above average at this time. The Yukon Delta Fisheries Development Association (YDFDA) will continue operating the LYTF through September 20 to assess the tail end of the coho salmon run. At this time, for coho salmon, the LYTF is above average and the Mt. Village Test Fishery is below average at this time. The Pilot Station sonar has an estimated passage of 238,000 coho salmon through September 4, which is almost twice the average. The reconstructed Pilot Station sonar passage through September 4 is 324,000 coho. The 2014 coho salmon run is near the largest on record. The Tanana River test fish wheel at Manley began on August 9 and is above average for coho salmon. The ¼ point of the project is on September 8.

Kuskokwim River – Neil Lalonde, Refuge Manager, Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge Brian McCaffery@fws.gov or Robert Sundown (907) 543-1007
Robert_Sundown@fws.gov

Reporting completed for 2014 season.

Yukon-Kuskokwim-Interior Alaska Web Links

Federal Subsistence Management Fisheries News Releases:

<http://www.doi.gov/subsistence/news/fishing/index.cfm>

Federal Subsistence Fisheries Regulations for Yukon–Northern Area

http://www.doi.gov/subsistence/regulation/fish_shell/upload/Yukon.pdf

NEW = Kuskokwim River Updates Hosted on OSM Website

<http://www.doi.gov/subsistence/kuskokwim.cfm>

Federal Subsistence Fisheries Regulations for Kuskokwim Area

http://www.doi.gov/subsistence/regulation/fish_shell/upload/Kusko.pdf

ADF&G Sport and Personal Use Fishing News Release and Emergency Order link:

<http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/sf/EONR/index.cfm?ADFG=region.R3>

ADF&G Commercial Fisheries News Release and Emergency Order Link:

<http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=cfnews.main>

Weekly ADF&G Sport Fishing Reports for Interior Alaska:

<http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/sf/FishingReports/index.cfm?ADFG=R3.home>

Statewide ADF&G Fish counts:

<http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/sf/FishCounts/>

SOUTHCENTRAL ALASKA

Prince William Sound – Copper River – Molly McCormick, Wrangell-St. Elias National Park/Preserve. (907) 822-7280 Molly_McCormick@nps.gov

Updated Information

The ADF&G sonar at Miles Lake (located just downstream of the Million Dollar Bridge in the Copper River) was shut down on July 28, 2014. By that date an estimated 1,177,005 salmon had migrated upstream. This estimate is 169% of the projected escapement objective of 696,799 for this date, or 480,206 more salmon. An estimate of 6,678 salmon migrated by the sonar counter on July 28th.

MILES LAKE SONAR ESTIMATES (TOTAL SALMON)

Year	Estimate	Year	Estimate	Year	Estimate	Year	Estimate
1978	107,011	1987	483,478	1996	906,867	2005	854,268

1979	237,173	1988	488,398	1997	1,148,079	2006	959,731
1980	276,538	1989	607,797	1998	866,957	2007	926,438
1981	535,263	1990	581,895	1999	848,921	2008	614,999
1982	467,306	1991	579,435	2000	587,592	2009	709,330
1983	545,724	1992	601,952	2001	833,569	2010	924,010
1984	536,806	1993	797,902	2002	819,000	2011	914,285
1985	436,313	1994	715,181	2003	695,233	2012	1,271,354
1986	509,275	1995	599,265	2004	669,646	2013	1,267,060

Commercial harvests in the Copper River District of Prince William Sound as of September 8 are:

- 1. 9,626 Chinook**
- 2. 2,068,392 sockeye**
- 3. 218,466 coho**
- 4. 11,641 pink**
- 5. 42,610 chum**

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The Chitina Subdistrict will remain open for the rest of the season – through September 30. **Eighty-one Federal Chitina Subdistrict permits have been issued on FWS's online data base.** Additional permits for this subdistrict have been issued in Chitina and Kennecott, NPS ranger stations that do not have internet connectivity. Starting on June 16, 2014, the state personal use fishery in the Chitina Subdistrict was closed to the retention of Chinook salmon for the remainder of the season, by Emergency Order from ADFG.

The Glennallen Subdistrict opened for Federal subsistence users on May 15th and is expected to remain open until September 30th. **Two hundred eighty seven Federal Glennallen permits have been issued on FWS's online data base.** Additional permits for this subdistrict have been issued in Chitina and Kennecott, NPS ranger stations that do not have internet connectivity. The state subsistence fishery in the Glennallen Subdistrict opened on June 1st.

The Batzulnetas fishery is open. Two permits have been issued so far this year.

The Tanada Creek weir was operational on May 23. As of September 4, 28,198 sockeye and 5 Chinook have been counted through the weir.

The Long Lake weir, on the McCarthy Road was installed and operational on July 25. As of September 4, 8,848 sockeye have been counted through the weir.

1,938 Chinook were tagged at the two project fishwheels in Baird Canyon operated by the Native Village of Eyak: and 180 tagged and 2,368 untagged were captured upriver at the Canyon Creek wheels. July 27, 2104 was the final day of this project.

ADF&G's counting tower in the Gulkana River was installed on June 4. Its final day of operation was August 12. The final count at the tower for 2014 was 2,598 Chinook and 22,920 sockeye. The tower is located approximately 9 miles upstream of the Sourdough boat launch.

By Emergency Order of the state of Alaska starting June 14, 2014, Chinook salmon harvest in the upper Copper River drainage sport fisheries was reduced from 4 to 1 Chinook 20 inches or more in length.

Six Special Actions relating to fisheries have been issued by the park so far this season:

1. setting the tentative preseason schedule for the Chitina Subdistrict and delaying the starting date of the Chitina Subdistrict federal salmon fishery
2. amending the preseason schedule for the Chitina Subdistrict for the week of June 30 – July 6 and providing the tentative schedule for future fishing periods.
3. amending the preseason schedule for the Chitina Subdistrict for the week of July 7 – July 13, allowing a full week (168 hours) of fishing.
4. amending the preseason schedule for the Chitina Subdistrict for the week of July 14 – July 20, allowing a full week (168 hours) of fishing
5. amending the preseason schedule for the Chitina Subdistrict for the week of July 21 – July 27, increasing the number of fishing hours allowed to 156 hours
6. amending the preseason schedule for the Chitina Subdistrict for the week of July 28 – August 3, allowing a full week (168 hours) of fishing.

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Links

ADF&G Miles Lake daily sonar estimates

http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=commercialbyareacopperriver.salmon_escapement

NVE's Chinook Escapement Monitoring project in the Copper River

<http://evak.fishscan.com>

ADF&G Copper River Inseason Commercial Harvest Estimates

<http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=commercialbyareacopperriver.harvestsummary>

Gulkana River counting tower – ADF&G

<http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/sf/FishCounts/index.cfm?ADFG=main.LocSelectYearSpecies>

Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve Subsistence User's Guide

<http://www.nps.gov/wrst/historyculture/upload/Subsistence%20brochure.pdf>

Prince William Sound Federal Subsistence Regulations including Copper River.

http://www.doi.gov/subsistence/regulation/fish_shell/upload/Prince.pdf

PWS and Copper River Flats – Milo Burcham, Forest Service, Cordova.

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Reporting completed for 2014 season.

Cook Inlet Area – Jeff Anderson, Field Supervisor, Kenai Fish and Wildlife Field Office (907) 260-0132 Jeffry_Anderson@fws.gov

Reporting completed for 2014 season.

Kodiak Island Area – Anne Marie LaRosa, Refuge Manager, - Kodiak NWR
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Kevin Van Hatten (907) 487-0230 Kevin_VanHatten@fws.gov
Reporting completed for 2014 season.

Federal Subsistence Fisheries Regulations for Kodiak Area
http://www.doi.gov/subsistence/regulation/fish_shell/upload/Kodiak.pdf

Bristol Bay and Chignik – Doug McBride Fisheries Branch Chief Anchorage Fish and Wildlife Field Office
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Reporting completed for 2014 season.

Federal Subsistence Fisheries Regulations for Bristol Bay Area
http://www.doi.gov/subsistence/regulation/fish_shell/upload/Bristol.pdf

Federal Subsistence Fisheries Regulations for Chignik Area
http://www.doi.gov/subsistence/regulation/fish_shell/upload/chignik.pdf

Southcentral Alaska Web Links

Federal Subsistence Management Fisheries News Releases
<http://www.doi.gov/subsistence/news/fishing/index.cfm>

ADF&G Sport and Personal Use Fishing News Release and Emergency Order link
<http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=fishingSportFishingInfo.R2>

ADF&G Commercial Fisheries News Release and Emergency Order Link
<http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=cfnews.main>

Weekly ADF&G Sport Fishing Reports for Southcentral Alaska
<http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/sf/FishingReports/index.cfm?ADFG=R2.Home>

Statewide ADF&G Fish counts:
<http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/sf/FishCounts/>

SOUTHEAST ALASKA

Sitka and Hoonah Area – Justin Koller, Forest Service, Tongass National Forest
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Reporting completed for 2014 season.

Wrangell/Petersburg Area – Bob Larson, Forest Service, Tongass National Forest
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Reporting completed for 2014 season.

<http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=commercialbyareasoutheast.salmonfisheryupdates>

Yakutat, Juneau, and Admiralty areas of Northern Southeast Alaska - Ben Van Alen, Forest Service, Tongass National Forest
(907)-789-6257 bvanalen@fs.fed.us or Jake Musslewhite (907) 789-6256

Reporting completed for 2014 season.

Prince of Wales and Ketchikan District Area – Jeff Reeves, Forest Service, Tongass National Forest. (907) 826-1649 jreeves@fs.fed.us

Reporting completed for 2014 season.

Southeast Alaska Web Links

Tongass National Forest News Room
<http://www.fs.usda.gov/news/tongass/news-events>

Federal Subsistence Fisheries Regulations for Southeastern Alaska Area
http://www.doi.gov/subsistence/regulation/fish_shell/upload/Southeast.pdf

ADF&G Sport and Personal Use Fishing News Release and Emergency Order Link
<http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/sf/EONR/index.cfm?ADFG=region.R1>

ADF&G Commercial Fisheries News Release and Emergency Order Link
<http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=cfnews.main>

Weekly ADF&G Sport Fishing Reports for Southeast Alaska
<http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/sf/FishingReports/index.cfm?ADFG=R1.home>

Statewide ADF&G Fish counts
<http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/sf/FishCounts/>

Northwest Alaska – Ken Adkisson, National Park Service, Nome.
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Reporting completed for 2014 season.